

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 21 are presently pending. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 – 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koch *et al.* (U.S. publication no.2005/0105867) hereinafter “Koch”.

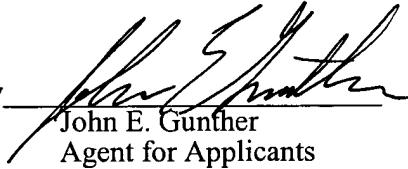
An Affidavit Under Rule 1.131 is submitted herewith to establish a date of invention that predates the effective date of Koch *et al.* (U.S. Publication No.2005/0105867). Accordingly, Claims 1 – 21 should be allowable.

For the reasons set forth above, the subject application is deemed to properly present claims patentable over the prior art.

Reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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